Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In summary, the bathtub of the present invention includes a tub having an enclosure defined by at least one sidewall, where the sidewall has a doorway therein providing access from an external side of the sidewall, external to the enclosure, into the enclosure. At least one generally horizontal elongate guide, for example a vertically spaced apart pair of elongate guides are provided in the sidewall. A door is slidably mounted to the guide or guides on ~~at least one~~a plurality of pivotable linkage arms. The pivotable linkage arms ~~is~~ are pivotally mounted to both the door and at least one of the guides, and is adapted for generally horizontal translation along the sidewall, in cooperation with the guide or guides, between a closed position wherein the door is releasably lockably mounted in watertight sealed engagement within the doorway, and an open position wherein the door is clear of the aperture and substantially parallel to the sidewall.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In one embodiment not intended to be limiting, when the door is in the closed position, the ~~at least one~~ pivotable linkage arms ~~is~~ are generally parallel to the sidewall and, when the door is in the open position, the ~~at least one~~ pivotable linkage arms ~~is~~ are generally non-parallel, for example perpendicular to the sidewall. The ~~at least one~~ pivotable linkage arms may include a pair of vertically spaced apart linkage arms, corresponding to the pair of elongate guides, mounted at a leading side edge of the door, where the leading side edge of the door corresponds to the side of the door closest to the guides when the door is in the closed position. The pivotable linkage arms may include a third linkage arm mounted to a trailing side edge of the door opposite the leading edge of the door.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The guides may be a pair of elongate parallel rails each having a slidable collar mounted thereon, in which case the ~~at least one~~ pivotable linkage arms may be a pair of linkage arms each pivotally mounted to one of the slidable collars. The guides may include at least one channel in the sidewall, in which case a follower is provided for sliding along the channel mounted to a corresponding pivotable linkage arm.--

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 7, line 6, up to and including the paragraphs on page 8, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--As seen in Figure 1, bathtub 10 is elevated, mounted on a frame or pedestal 12 so that a door 14 mounted to one side wall 10a of the bathtub is elevated. Sidewall 10a and the opposite sidewall 10b, and the end walls 10c and 10d define a bathtub enclosure. Bathtub 10 may be elevated so that the side door opening or doorway occupied by door 14 when in its closed position is level with a typical chair seat elevation. For example, the floor of bathtub 10 may be elevated to correspond to a typical wheelchair height of 17.5 inches, although this is not intended to be limiting. Pedestal 12 may be used for storage and provides for ease of access for maintenance, etc. The bathtub and pedestal may be sized to replace an existing conventional bathtub.

As better seen in Figures 2-5, wherein the cover 16 of door 14 is either removed or shown in dotted outline, the cover 16 encloses a lock actuating mechanism 20. In particular, lock actuating mechanism 20 includes an operating lever 22 protruding upwardly from the door and having a handle 24 cantilevered towards the bathtub enclosure at an upper end of the lever. Lever 22 is oscillatably pivotally mounted, for example by means of shaft 26, to mounting or backing plate 28 rigidly mounted to an interior surface of door cover 16.

Crank arm 30 is also mounted on shaft 26 and may be rigidly mounted to lever 22, for example by means of collar 32, so that rotation of lever 22 in direction A about shaft 26 simultaneously correspondingly rotates crank arm 30 to thereby translate cross arm 34 in direction B. ~~Rotation~~ Cross arm 34 acts as a latch drive arm, in this embodiment driving bell crank members 36, whereby rotation of lever 22 about shaft 26 unlatches four spring-loaded door latches. In particular, translation of cross arm 34 in direction B rotates upper bell crank members

36 about axes of rotation C to thereby actuate, that is, retract upper spring-loaded door latch bolts or members 38 into conventional door latch mechanisms 40. Such rotation of upper bell crank members 36 simultaneously drives a pair of corresponding connecting rods 42 in direction D so as to simultaneously rotate lower bell crank members 44 about axes of rotation E. ~~Rotation of~~Thus, rods 42 also act as latch drive arms, rotating lower bell crank members 44 to thereby retracts lower spring-loaded door latch bolts or members 46 into door latch mechanisms 48. Door latch mechanisms 40 and 48 and their respective latch members 38 and 46 form releasable latches, and are actuated by a latch actuator, in this case lever 22, arms 30, 34, rods 42, and bell cranks 36, 44.

Door latch members 38 and 46 are thus simultaneously retracted by operation of lever 22 so as to retract the door latch members inwardly of the door in direction F as seen in Figure ~~5~~4, thereby retracting the door latch members from engagement in correspondingly sized apertures in a latch member receiver such as plates 50 mounted to the opposed facing surfaces of the door opening in bathtub sidewall 10a. The spring-loaded door latch members automatically engage or re-engage the apertures in plates 50 under the resilient return-biased urging of their spring mechanisms so as to lock door 16 in watertight sealed engagement within the door opening of sidewall 10a.

What follows is a description of one embodiment of a release disabling means for disabling the latch actuator. A water reservoir 52 is mounted within sidewall 10a. Reservoir 52 is in fluid communication with the inside of bathtub 10 so that as bathtub 10 is filled with water, so too water fills reservoir 52 to a corresponding level until reservoir 52 is full. In Figures 2, 4, ~~5~~ and ~~5a~~, reservoir 52 is shown partially cut away so that internal float 54 may be seen. As the water lever rises within reservoir 52 corresponding to the level of water with bathtub 10, float 54 rises with the water level in the reservoir so as to drive upwardly in direction G end 56a of a float actuated linkage such as bell crank 56. Bell crank 56 is rotatably mounted to a supporting member 58 for pivoting rotation in direction H so that actuation of end 56a in direction G by the urging of a rising float 54 in reservoir 52 rotates the bell crank. Rotation of the bell crank drives a pin 60 in direction I through a corresponding aperture in plate 50 and into mating engagement with an apertured or channelled plate 62 rigidly mounted to one of the connecting rods 42. With pin 60 so mated the reverse actuation of lock actuating mechanism 20 is prevented. Thus, when

water is in the bathtub, the mating of pin 60 in plate 62 prevents the unlocking of door 14 which might otherwise be inadvertently unlocked by a user operating lever 22 resulting in flooding of the bathroom.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Such outward translation of door 14 in direction J also correspondingly outwardly translates door supporting plate 68. Plate 68 supports door 14. A pair of pivot arms 70 are pivotally mounted at first ends of the pivot arms to door supporting plate 68 and at opposite second ends of the pivot arms to sliding sleeves or collars 72. Sliding collars 72 are free to slide in direction K along a linear rail or rod 74 which serves as an elongate guide mounted recessed into channel 76 in sidewall 10a. Similarly, pivot arm 78 is pivotally mounted at its first end to frame 18, or otherwise to door 14, and at its opposite second end to sleeve or collar slide 80. Collar slide 80 is slidably mounted on a rail or rod 82. Rod 82 is an elongate guide mounted parallel to, and vertically spaced from, rod 74 within channel 84 of sidewalls 10a. Thus, translation of door 14 in direction J upon opening of the door rotates lower pivot arms 70 in direction L and upper pivot arm 78 in direction M from their closed position generally parallel to sidewall 10a thereby swinging door 14 outwardly of rods 74 and 82 while maintaining door 14 parallel to the plane containing rods 74 and 82. Once door 14 is swung clear of the door opening in sidewall 10a, the door may be translated by sliding the door in direction N as seen in Figure 1 along the length of rods 74 and 82 to thereby completely open the door opening as seen in Figure 5a for access by a user.--